

MONTEREY NEWS

JULY 1985



LAND VALUATIONS RECERTIFIED

The Board of Assessors wishes to report that at last the new values of taxable property in Monterey have been recertified by the Department of Revenue. Representatives from the Bureau of Local Assessment spent a week in Monterey and reviewed all recent sales of property and selected samples from the various classes. The Board is now completing the many requirements for setting the belated tax rate for Fiscal 1985 in order to send out the tax bills.

The new values were established as of January 1, 1984. Considerable changes were necessitated by sales which took place in 1983 and by other indications of inflation. These changes, plus new divisions and new construction, have increased the tax base by about 30 per cent, which will mean that the tax rate will be lowered. If your property is in a growth area, or if you have improved it, your total value will be higher and your taxes may be increased from 1984. If your property is in a constant area and you have not improved it, your value may be the same or slightly higher, and your taxes will remain about the same or be slightly lower.

If anyone wishes to discuss their assessments, the Board of Assessors will be happy to make an appointment. Please phone the office: 528-1443.

PLANNING BOARD REVIEWING BY-LAWS

In addition to addressing the issues raised by the moratorium on multi-family housing, Planning Board Chairman William Brockman reports that other areas of the By-Laws are being studied for possible amendment or re-definition. Among those are the establishment of setback requirements in wetland areas and a review of soil maps for possible re-zoning of the Agricultural/Residential District. Brockman did not say when a public hearing will be held with recommendations to voters.

In addition to its regular meeting, the Board meets to review the By-Laws on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. It will meet with representatives of the Board of Appeals in July, and with representatives of the Conservation Commission in August. All meetings are open to the public.

MONTEREY RACE PLANNED JULY 13

There will be two races in Monterey July 13, a one-mile event at 8:30 a.m. and the 4.5-mile Knox Trail Run at 9:30.

The entry fee is \$3 for those registering by July 10; the fee is \$4 after that. Trophies will be awarded in various age categories. For information, phone Bill Gillooly at 528-2303 or Bob Gauthier at 528-1624.

WEEDER FOR LAKE BUEL

A weeding machine purchased with a state grant and matching funds is due for delivery to the Lake Buel Property Owners' Association in July. The property owners will submit bids from local contractors to operate the custom-made machine, which cost \$80,000, complete with its own truck to haul it in and out of the water.

O'CONNOR RESIGNS FROM MONTEREY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Anne Marie O'Connor resigned from the Monterey Conservation Commission as of May 20. Commission members will recommend candidates from which Monterey Selectmen may appoint a new commissioner.

MONTEREY FIRE COMPANY STEAK ROAST '85

Ticket sales are on for the Monterey Fire Company's Steak Roast, July 27. Food will be served from 4:00 to 7:00. Afterward there will be dancing to music by the Shy Americans. There will be a separate charge at the gate for those who wish to attend the dance without having attended the picnic.



Paul Porter, coach; Mike Wellspeed, player; and Stu Dacheim, player (not shown), spoke to the Monterey Community Dinner on July 26 about the Lee High School hockey team's trip to the Soviet Union.

OUR CHURCHES



CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Masses Schedule

Our Lady of the Valley, Sheffield

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Immaculate Conception, Mill River

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Our Lady of the Hills, Monterey

Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship and Regular Meetings

Church school, Sunday at 10:30 during morning worship. Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with childcare at same time in the Social Room. Choir rehearsal Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. Meditation and prayer, 7:30 a.m. in the Social Room. All are invited. Prayer Group, Thursdays, 7:45 p.m. at the home of Lucy Smith.

SABBATH SERVICES

Jewish Sabbath services will be held at Lake Garfield in July and August. Those interested in participating may call Louis Kerlinsky at (413) 528-4289, (413) 732-3173 or (413) 567-8171.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Sunday, July 21

10:30 AM

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
~ ALL WELCOME ~

HUGE FLEA MARKET AND TAG SALE

Benefit for Our Lady of the Hills Chapel
to be held at
Rock Ridge, Tyringham Road, Monterey

Saturday, July 27 — 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 28 — 12 Noon-4:00 p.m.

Antiques, Original Art, Art Nouveau, Art Deco,
Early American Tools and Lots of White Elephants

No Early Birds, Please!

For further information and contributions, call 528-2624.



ROOTS AND BRANCHES

In a tree, which do you prefer, the roots or the branches? Why, the branches, of course!

But, you protest, that is a ridiculous question. And of course you are right. The branches are the part of the tree that shows. We judge the character of a tree largely on what we see of its branches. Who ever sees the roots? Why give a thought to what is so completely out of sight?

What has opened up this line of reflection? Let me tell you. As I write this my wife and I are on our "retirement trip." It is involving nearly three weeks being immersed in family—both of our families. And for me it is involving a family reunion in Iowa. Like it or not, it is a time of involvement in roots. There are roots of all kinds whichever way we turn. The culture and mentality of the Midwest is part of our roots. The powerful roots of family are intertwined through everything. This is an especially reflective experience for one who has lived most of his life largely out of active contact with the roots that were so critical in the formative years. This reflection on the relation of roots and branches is personal, of course, but I believe that it is also somewhat universal and may speak to some part of every person's experience.

There is no life without roots. Human life especially is rooted in family, culture, language, tradition, nation—and the list goes on. The rootage is much deeper and much more powerful than we imagine. There is a continuity between my parents and my children—even in tendencies toward physical weaknesses and strengths. It is startling in a family reunion to hear stories of illnesses that are similar in cousins and the children of cousins. Of course, there are strengths, too, but when in a family reunion does anyone get around to discovering what the strengths may be! In so many ways the common roots present themselves. We simply don't notice, usually, that they are common roots.

I would reflect, secondly, that regardless of roots, the varieties of branches are truly astounding. The possibilities open to each individual are positively astonishing. Each decision at the various stages of life keeps opening new choices and new possibilities. Reflect on how frequently life direction has been altered by education, vocational choices, marriages, significant people and unusual happenings. From my roots could anyone successfully have predicted the unfolding course of my life? And in your life, did you have any way of knowing beforehand how profoundly certain events would be in shaping your life? Single incidents often carry great weight. They have the power to alter directions substantially. Don't imagine that roots determine everything. Let your life carry a strong element of wonder. Keep the capacity to be surprised by life. What is happening now, and what will happen tomorrow, may bring new perspectives into your seeing and into your being. These happenings along the way of life's pilgrimage are the stuff out of which the branches are being formed. Cherish them, yes, and be prepared to respond to

them. They are filled with more opportunity than we at first imagine.

It is a tragedy when we limit life by lack of imagination. When we see the days of our years as an unfolding drama the invitations for change and development are ever about us. Let any one of us think back to options we had that we never acted upon. Then we may grasp how persistently life presents us with choices that widen the range of thought and action. I celebrate the wide array of branches that life offers to you and me. To be sure, the branches that we develop depend on our use of imagination and initiative. Most of the branches of our lives do not grow on their own. As on a tree there are many branches that start and yet they wither away undeveloped. Unlike a tree, our choices and energy investments determine the branches that do develop. If we were to bring more awareness to this process we will participate more meaningfully in the character of the lives that are unfolding in each of us. It doesn't require any profound reflection on the part of any of us to realize that we have encountered vastly more potential than has come to fruition. And there is no point in crying over things we left unexplored and undeveloped. Rather the question to ask is, what are you and I doing with some of the new branches right now that are inviting our attention?

I cannot think of our lives without celebration. How wondrous, how mysterious is the gift of life—and especially our human life! I rejoice that life has rootage, that it is anchored deeply and solidly in the experience of the race. There is resource enough in our history to empower and inspire us through many a lifetime. But celebrate with me also the marvelous uniqueness and the rich possibilities of each life. There are some who worry about the tendency toward uniformity that makes us conform to the least imaginative use of our humanity. For myself I choose to rejoice in the evidence of the divine that draws out some part of our uniqueness in spite of our worst fears. Even in the most stolid of our roots is something that draws forth some part of the explorer in us all.

— Virgil V. Brallier



Fledgling vireos, July 1984 Photo by E. Pearson



PeeWees Chelsea Tillett and Shane O'Connor in training for the game with Egremont

YOUTH NEWS

Brownies, Troop 237

The troop ended the year with a picnic and court of awards ceremony, with the New Marlboro Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts.

Ann Gile received her red Brownie B patch for her second year of participation and a membership star. For selling 88 boxes of Girl Scout cookies, Ann received a cookie power bar, bear patch and a baby bear toy. Congratulations, Ann!

Erin and Meghan Sadlowski each received a blue Brownie B patch for their third year of participation and a membership star. For selling 102 boxes of Girl Scout cookies they received a cookie power bar, bear patch and a baby bear toy. Congratulations, Erin and Meghan!

Rachel Rodgers received her blue Brownie B patch for her third year of participation and a membership star. For selling 154 boxes of Girl Scout cookies Rachel received a cookie power bar, bear patch, bear tote bag, and mama and baby bear toy. Congratulations, Rachel!

After completing the requirements, all the girls received the "Home On Your Own" patch and the "Trefoil Troop" patch. Good luck, girls!

Since Rachel, Erin and Meghan are third graders they completed their third year as Brownie Scouts. They each received their Brownie wings and Bridge to Junior patch and flew up to Junior Girl Scouts. Congratulations and good luck, girls in Juniors!

A big thank you to Ardelle Gile for all her help this past year.

Congratulations and good luck to Carol Sadlowski, who will be the Junior leader in September. Thanks, too, for all your help. Have a nice summer, and see you in September!

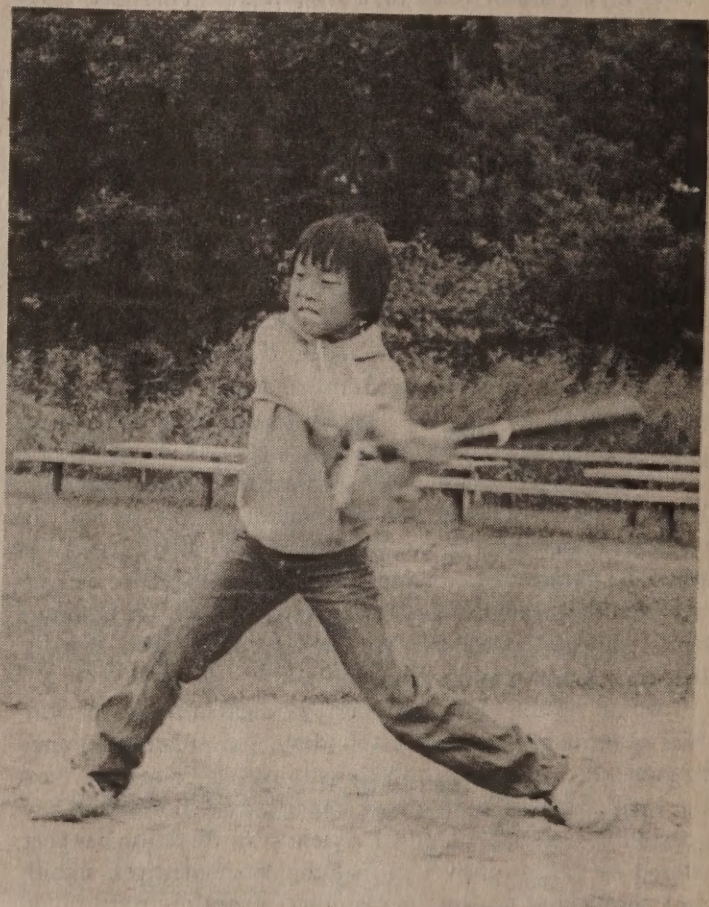
Cub Scouts

Mike Ohman, Chris Callahan, Kip Loder, and Asa Hardcastle will be going to the Weeblos' Weekend, with Mr. Conrad Ohman, at Chesterfield Scout Reservation this summer.

Little League

The Monterey Yankees Little League team is a young team with many new members on it. Their record doesn't speak for what they've accomplished. They have shown great improvement since the start of the season both individually and as a team. This year's team consists of Mike Bragdon, Paul Bynack, Natasha Grotz, Pat McBride, Erin Murfitt, Mike Ohman, Stacy Palfini, Mark Phillips, John Pizzichemi, Gabe Small, Bill Thieriot, Tish Thorpe, and Kevin Touponce.

Special thanks to those who contributed to the purchase of new uniforms.

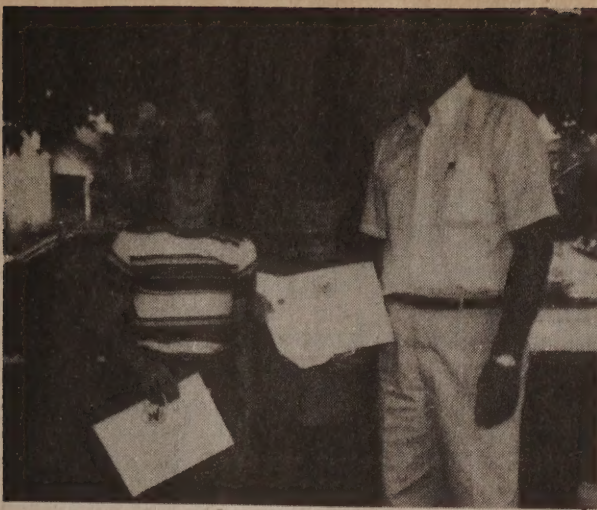


Kip Loder of the PeeWee Yankees prepares for the game with Egremont

MONTEREY GRADUATES

Monterey students graduating from Mt. Everett Regional High School this month were Keith Michael Amstead, Elizabeth Kathleen Gates, Cathy Jean Hall, Linda Jeanne Hayes, Mary Theresa Heath, and David M. Smith.

Linda Hayes was the Monterey recipient of the Monterey-New Marlboro PTA scholarship award this year, and also received a Rotary scholarship award of \$600. She will attend Fitchburg State College next year.



-PHOTO BY GEORGIANA O'CONNELL

Christopher Burkhart and Michael Ohman of Monterey each received the 1985 Presidential Academic Fitness Award and were given certificates signed by the President and the Secretary of Education and lapel pins also. To achieve this award these students attained a B+ average or equivalent and also received scores above the 80th percentile on the Stanford Achievement Test, a nationally recognized standardized achievement test battery.

NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

Christopher Burkhart, New Marlborough Central fourth grader, brought much fame to himself and our little school recently by winning a plaque for meritorious achievement in the Elementary Education Ecology Poem and Poster Program sponsored by the New England Regional Office of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. This was quite an

honor since thousands of entries from all over New England were submitted and only 20 children received plaques. Chris, his family and his teacher, Roberta Roy, attended the awards ceremony at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. Chris is the son of Wayne and Donna Burkhart of Gould Farm.



PHOTO BY GEORGIANA O'CONNELL

Donald Jones of Monterey helping to plant a tree at the New Marlborough Central School Arbor Day celebration.

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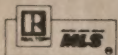
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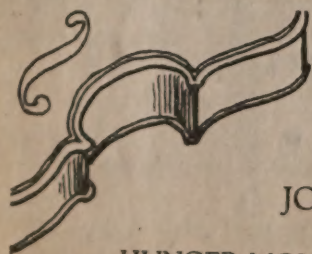


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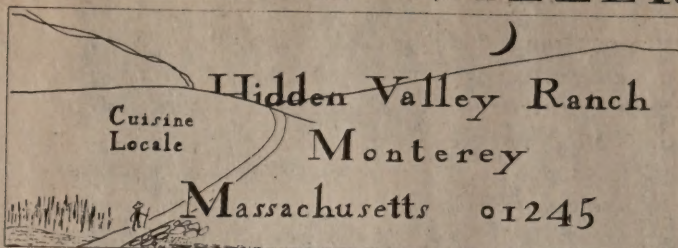


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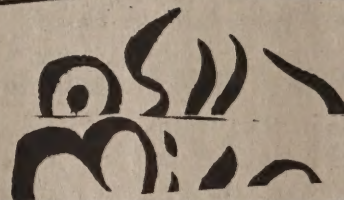
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MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met June 5, and the following officers were elected: Master, Tolitha Butler; Overseer, Cecil Jespersom; Lecturer, Mary Wallace; Assistant Lecturer, Annette Nelson; Steward, Ethel Warner; Assistant Steward, Richard Hardisty; Lady Assistant Steward, Eleanor Kimberley; Chaplain, Florence Brown; Treasurer, Ann Vickerman; Secretary, Patricia Hardisty; Gatekeeper, Kam Tiernan; Ceres, Teresa Callan; Pomona, Violet Hardisty; Flora, Alice Shaffer; Executive Committee, W. Raymond Ward; Pianist, Elizabeth Slater.

Members are selling raffle tickets.

Monterey Grange #291 met June 19, when 99 members and friends enjoyed the reunion of past state officers, or "The Has-Beens," and a Roaring '20s program that included skits, readings, accordian selections, community singing and a parade of the "Golden Girls" (men).

Raffle tickets were given out. The recent food sale at the Big Y was a huge success, and the Grange wants to thank all who helped.

The tote bag donated by Ann Vickerman was won by Betty Wilber of Sandisfield.

The next meeting will be July 7 for the Annual Youth Night.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

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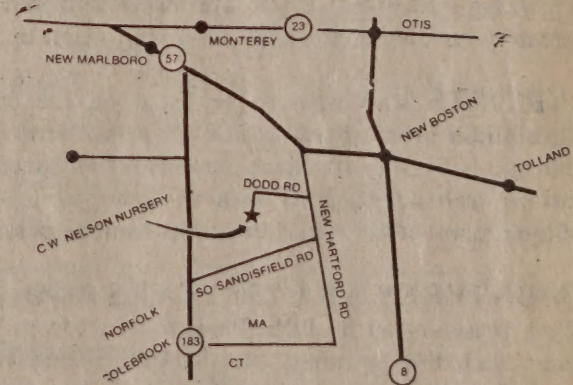


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JULY 20 and 21, 1985

TICKETS for the performing arts segment of the Festival are almost gone, and another sold-out performance is in sight. We thank you for your encouraging response.

THE PARADE 9:30 a.m., Main Street. The Berkshire Highlanders, a group of Scottish bagpipers, will lead the procession. There will be a float depicting the proceedings, both shady and formal, surrounding Monterey's origins out of the wilderness 250 years ago. There will be a Shetland pony dressed like a clown, pulling a cart full of clowns. There will be fancy cars, draft horses, theatrics by camp groups and Monterey families. There will be something for everyone. See clowning info, p.16, if you are inspired to join the fun or create your own effect. Call 528-2516 to sign up.

ARTISTS who wish to be listed on the official **Arts Exhibition** program and studio map *must* send in their applications by July 10. Since demonstration space is limited, artists/craftspeople who wish to demonstrate on Sunday should contact the Arts Council as soon as possible.

MONTEREY ART 250 YEARS AGO There will be a presentation by Ellen Pearson of art from Monterey's past, including paintings, photographs, memorabilia, taped interviews, poetry and music. Special emphasis will be on the Summer School of Art, works by Jay Van Evren and Kalman Oswald, and the poetry of Margery Mansfield Janes.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE On Sunday at 10:30 a.m. the traditional ecumenical service will be held at the Monterey United Church of Christ.

CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION A show of children's art in the Social Room of the United Church of Christ will be held at the same time as the Art Exhibition, July 20 and 21. Submissions for the children's show may be made

to Ann McGinley, 528-3745. Work may be delivered to the Monterey Firehouse between noon and 8:00 p.m., July 17 and 18.

CHILD CARE will be provided in the Social Room of the United Church of Christ during the music and dance performances. Register with Ann McGinley by July 17 (528-3745). Charge per child: \$1.00.

HOSTESSES AND USHERS are badly needed for the Festival of the Arts. Please contact the Arts Council at 528-4115 or 528-3723.

Once again we would like to thank the community for your overwhelming response. We are looking forward to celebrating with you a great day for the appreciation of arts in Monterey.



Edith Wilson provided us some identification on the more recent Corashire School photo. From left to right, Edith recognized (with coat open) Jimmy Stevens (son of Jim and Terry Stevens, who lived in what is now Fred Vorck's house); Bill Hall's daughter Joan (behind Jimmy); Susan McDarby (in bangs); Pam Gilchrist (with hair ribbon); Rocky Stevens, Jimmy's brother (smiling in foreground); Linda Whitbeck (white shirt and coat open); and a child whose last name was Tite (next to the Bookmobile). And that might be JoJo Lanoue half hidden behind Jimmy Stevens.

250 YEARS AGO IN MONTEREY

In 1735 the land which is now Monterey, Tyringham, Sandisfield, New Marlborough and Becket was a teeming wilderness described 50 years later by Moses Fargo as "hunting grounds for the most exquisite Indian taste" and traversed only by Indian trails. It was largely out of motivation to create a road on the Indian trail which is now Route 23 that the Provincial legislature confirmed on January 16, 1735, the appointment of a committee consisting of John Alden, Esq.; capt. Stephen Skiffe; and John Fisher, Esq., "to effect the business as . . . projected for the Townships on the road between Westfield and Sheffield."

This land had for years before belonged to the Usetonock Indians made familiar to *Monterey New* readers in the "Indian Notes" of David McAllester. As is stated in the Proprietary Records of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, "in southern Berkshire the Indians sold parcels directly to the whites without the interference of, or participation by, the provincial legislature."

It is reported variously in histories of Berkshire County and in Colonial records that some of the original transactions to acquire a tract of land constituting most of western Massachusetts were made by a man named Ephraim Williams and a friend, Col. Nahum Ward.

The sachem named Umpachene eventually traded this tract of about 18,000 square miles for the Stockbridge Indiantown (36 square miles).

Later a series of confirming purchases were made in response to demands by the Indians, but for the purposes of this account it can be said that the birth pangs of Township 1, now Tyringham and Monterey, first resonated in 1735, all the way from the haughty and involuted exchanges of the Provincial legislature to the sly dealings between whites and Indians in the deep woods of western Massachusetts.

MONTEREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At a recent meeting of the officers and directors of the Monterey Historical Society plans were made for the coming summer season.

On June 28 Mr. John Santos, harness maker for the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdale team, showed movies of the team and his workshop. The problems and art of working with leather were explained.

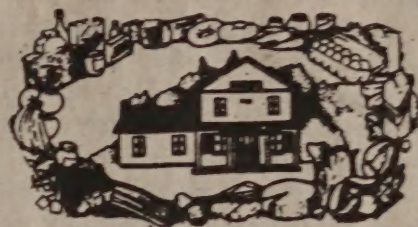
The annual meeting will be held on July 26 with a short business meeting to elect new officers and a director, after which Mrs. Bernard Drew of Great Barrington will tell us of the history of the Monument Mills and the impact of its closing on the area.

One of Monterey's own craftsmen will demonstrate his work at the September meeting.

All meetings are held in the museum, and everyone is invited to attend. A social hour follows the sessions, giving everyone an opportunity to meet the guests and greet their neighbors and friends.

— Sally Fijux

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INDIAN NOTES

Mahican Arts

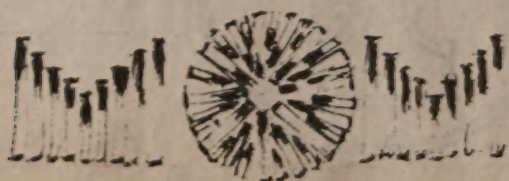
Porcupine quill embroidery on birchbark was a highly developed Native American art at the time the Europeans arrived in America. There is a brilliant renaissance going on today, especially in the creation of decorated birchbark boxes to sell in the Indian arts market. This art is a specialty of Northeastern America where the bark is available, but other forms of quillwork can be seen throughout North America. The gleaming, sharp spines are known to most of us only to our sorrow when an incautious dog gets a faceful from trying to bite the superbly protected porcupine, but Native artists saw the beauty of the unique hairs which have evolved into spears.

A design element is implicit in the contrast between the creamy white shaft of the spine and the long, jet-black tip. In addition, the quills take on dye very well and yet retain their shiny gloss. Most quills range from one to four or five inches in length, though some are so slim that they are really hairs and might be seven or eight inches long. Hidden between the long slimmer quills are the short stout ones, up to one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness. The combination is impenetrable, like the spears in the "hedgehog" formations of the Persian phalanxes.

Though ordinarily stiff and brittle, as suits their defensive function, quills become flexible and workable after fifteen minutes' soaking in warm water. They are easily set in birch bark with the aid of a slim awl. Punch small holes where you want the two ends to be fastened to the bark: Each end of the quill has a natural point to insert in the awl hole. The tip, of course, is an awl in itself; the butt of the quill has a sharp little root that stays hard even when soaked and so can be poked through the awl hole. These ends can be pulled on through with the fingers or, more safely, with tweezers. When the quill is tight, the projecting ends on the underside of the bark can be snipped off—curved nail scissors are an ideal implement.

Both bark and quills have properties that help keep the quill in place. When the awl is pulled out of the hole it has just punched, the aperture begins to close as the pressure is removed from the cork-like material. Thus the bark itself grips the quill. And the quill, as it dries, resumes its former stiffness and so is "frozen" into place. Of course, the ends of the quill are visible on the reverse side of the bark; perfectionists make an inner lining of bark to conceal these.

In addition to the flat stitching described above, the artist may bring the ends through the opposite way, through closely spaced holes and create part of the design in high relief according to how much quill is left uncut. A flower pattern, for example, might have flat petals but realistic stamens as much as half an inch long.




This embroidery may be done simply with a dozen or so quills on a box intended for inexpensive sale, or it may involve 500 to 2,000 or more quills in a work that takes many days to create and sells for \$75 to \$200 and up. A rim of sweetgrass is often sewn to the edge of the box cover; this adds another texture to that of bark and quills and contributes a fragrance that lasts for many years.

— David P. McAllester

TALL PINE FARM.

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PARK COMMISSION PATTTER

Swimming classes will be held at the Town Beach, for Monterey residents. There will be a nominal 60¢ registration fee.

Elementary Classes:

July 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 29, 30, 31, August 1, 2.

Swimmers at 9:30 a.m.; Intermediate at 10:00 a.m.;

Advanced Beginners at 10:30 a.m.; Beginners at 11:00 a.m.

Three- and Four-Year-Olds

July 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 at 10:30 a.m.

These two groups are taught by Cheri Briggs.

Advanced Lifesaving with Maryellen Brown

July 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15, 16, 17, 18, 19—mornings.

The lifesaving classes will be open to nonresidents if the size of the class permits. There will be a charge for equipment.

The Town offers these classes taught by American Red Cross-certified instructors. Assisting will be Lisa Gelbard.

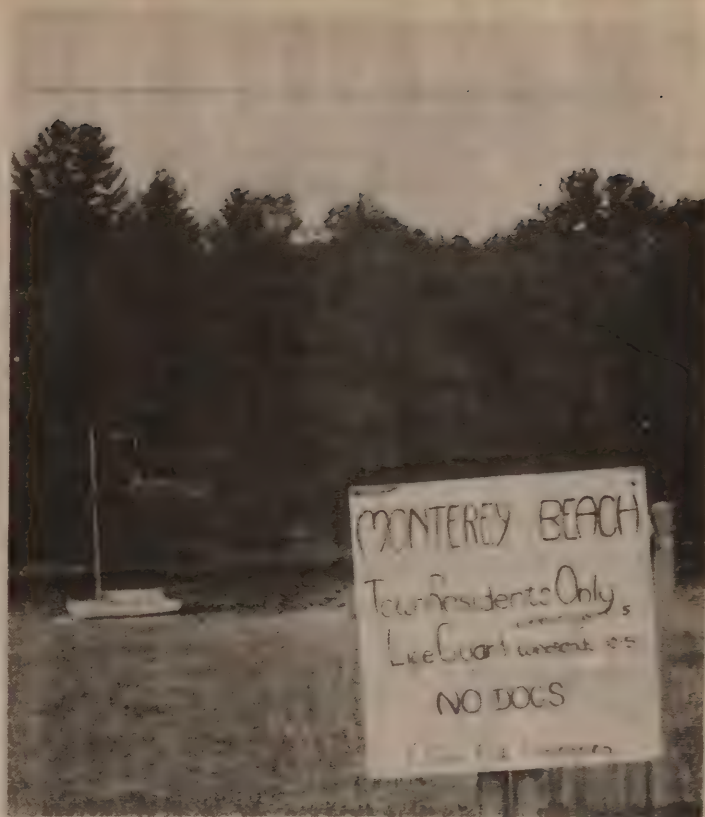
Please pick up a permission slip at the Monterey General Store or the Roadside Store and return it with the 60¢ registration fee to the General Store or bring it to your first session.

We can't emphasize enough the importance of swim classes AND continuing through the higher levels. This year we hope to fill our Intermediate and Swimmers and Lifesaving classes. Aside from the obvious safety advantages, swimming ability is excellent exercise, may lead to a career and is an addicting recreation..

The beach will be policed by a parking attendant on weekends and busy days, so be sure to have your beach card—available at the Town offices. First-time users will be assessed \$5.00. They are available to residents, seasonal and year-round, and renters.

The water is tested weekly because of the low state, and tests okay for swimming. Maximum coliform level is 1,000, and we test a very fine 420.

New additions are the gate swing and seesaw in Greene Park installed by Rick Mielke and donated by the Monterey Moms who earned the money with their quilt and cookbooks. Little feet are already wearing paths around them. We thank them. Basketball nets are replaced. The volleyball *will* be set up this year. We are trying out two locations to find the best



spot. Also, in Bidwell Park find two new picnic tables made for us by Mt. Everett students.

In the works, in answer to your many requests, is fencing to protect teams and spectators at the ball park, and also a fence around the beach and play area for safety of small children, and to better define the area, facilitate parking and aid the parking attendant in checking users. When the water is high enough, the long-promised raft will be there!

The infield repair has been completed by Rick Mielke and greatly improved the field.

AND—our chairman for 1985-86 is Debbie Mielke.

We welcome feedback. We love to see the facilities used. Swimming and canoeing now—big boats later.

— Deb, Fran, Steve



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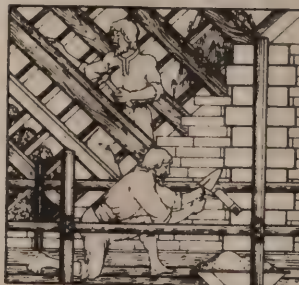


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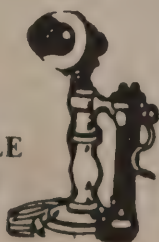
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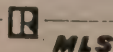
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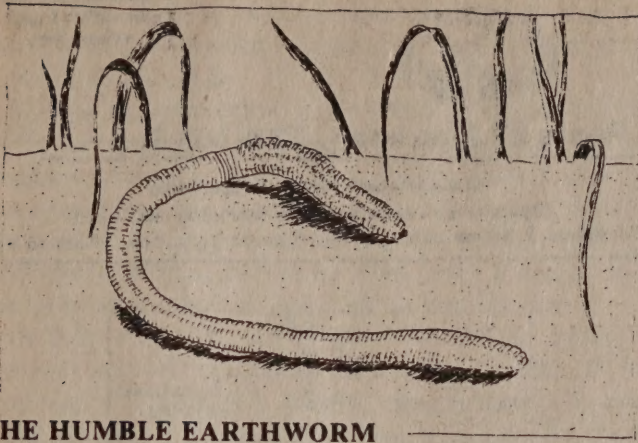
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LOCAL LORE



THE HUMBLE EARTHWORM

Charles Darwin wrote in 1881: "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world as have these lowly organized creatures." He was speaking of earthworms, which are the subject of his last book, *The Formation of Vegetable Mould, Through the Action of Worms, with Observations on Their Habits*. Darwin was not the first to note the importance of earthworms—Aristotle called them "the intestines of the earth," and actually they are the intestines through which the earth passes, over and over again.

Darwin was most impressed by this ability worms have to turn over the earth by passing it through their digestive systems. In his native England, Darwin found that earthworms sent up as much as 18 tons of earth per acre per year. He kept track of a stony field on his property where, with no frost to heave the rocks up again, earthworms covered all the rocky surface with an inch of "castings" in twelve years' time. Worm scientists have calculated that 16 tons per acre per year is about average for an English pasture full of worms, and in the Nile Valley, so rich in so many ways, earthworms sent up over 1,000 tons per acre per year of castings, more fertile even than the soil and litter that had been originally ingested.

Earthworms are annelids, or segmented worms, not to be confused with the flatworms and roundworms, many of which are parasitic. In fact, earthworms are themselves bothered by both round- and flatworm parasites, which shows that even worms can have worms. In North America we have 17 native species of earthworms, and there are 13 more which have been introduced from Europe, some in colonial flower pots. The one which we know best, from bait shops to biology class, is *Lumbricus terrestris*, which gets to be about ten inches long and is reddish-brown in color because of the hemoglobin in its blood. Some worms are greenish in color, and some are much bigger than *L. terrestris*, such as *Megascolides australis* of Australia, which may be 11 feet long and an inch and a half in diameter. All these earthworms are members of the oligochaete class, and all have certain habits in common.

Lumbricus terrestris, our common earthworm, pulls food into its burrow before eating it. Leaves are always pulled in with the stem ends sticking out, and often little plugs are formed with the leaf tips an inch or so inside the burrow, where the worms can munch on them in safety. Darwin

offered triangles of paper to worms and found that the ways grabbed them by the sharpest point and pulled that into the burrow. Worms can't see or hear, but they are sensitive to light, vibration and temperature. Probably they feel the sharpest tip of a leaf, but one researcher offered worms some lime leaves with the tips cut off round and found the worms still grabbed them by the place where the tips had been.

A worm's worst enemy is the mole. Birds and shrews prey upon worms, too, but moles can tunnel for them and like to store up several at a time, paralyzing them by biting off three to five of the first segments. When a mole tunnels through the ground, it sets off vibrations which the worms can sense. They immediately head for the surface where the mole can't follow. Some nightcrawler hunters make use of this response by stomping on the ground to drive out the worms. Anyone who has been setting out seedling or turning over the garden beds has probably observed worms making a desperate escape from the vibrations of the shovel.

This mole-vibration response worked to the advantage of some English crows who were observed gathering in great numbers by a superhighway to eat worms. They did this only in wet weather, and it was because the vibrations of the traffic were carried best in wet ground, causing worms to come popping to the surface by the side of the road. In dry weather, the birds showed no preference for superhighways over side roads with lighter traffic.

Bait farming is a \$50-million-per-year industry in the United States, with over 90,000 farms raising and selling worms. The two most popular types are red wigglers and native northern nightcrawlers, which can bring up to \$24 per thousand to the farmer. A California firm called North American Bait Farms did an experiment with 5.6 million worms and ten tons of city garbage. They removed all the glass, rubber and metal from the garbage and then added the worms. In 45 days the garbage was all gone, leaving three tons of castings and over ten million worms.

Worms are humble and good. Scientists since Aristotle have been saying this, though it is true a worm will eat your lettuce and other nice leaves. A worm's order of preference for types of leaves is: lettuce, kale, beets, elm, corn, lime, birch, oak, beech. Those tougher leaves with higher tannin content are the ones left lying on the forest floor, the worms having dragged the more tender ones home to eat.

I can't imagine anyone who doesn't feel a little pang every time he accidentally chops a worm when digging with a shovel. We know they limp off and regenerate, but still they look so vulnerable and wounded when you slice them on the side of a hole. Actually, the hind ends don't always regenerate so well, especially if they are rather short. When a bird grabs at a worm and cuts it in two, the hind end wriggles like mad, creating a diversion, and gets gobbled up; the front end crawls quickly away to a safe place for hiding and regeneration.

In safe culture, a worm may live for eight years, but in the wild they rarely last as long as two years. Still, a mature worm makes 40 to 70 cocoons in a year, and 1,000 can multiply to a million in a year on a worm farm. It's something to think about as we are setting out the eggplants and wondering if we'll get any. With enough rocky fields and garbage we could try worm farming instead, for a more reliable harvest.

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PERSONALS

Ellen Carol Leuchs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Leuchs of Monterey, was graduated from Miss Hall's School June 9. Her academic rank was number one in the class of 61 students. She was awarded a prize in mathematics and cited as a remarkable student.

She was assistant editor of the school yearbook, co-editor of the newspaper, and a member of the staff of the school magazine. She was the designer of the yearbook cover. She was a member of the judicial committee and vice president of the French Club. Her junior year she was the only member of her class to be inducted into the Cum Laude Society and was the recipient of the Williams College Book Award.

In November she served as a Girl Friday during the national presidential election coverage at the ABC-TV news studio in New York City, and this summer she will be an editorial assistant at *The Berkshire Courier* in Great Barrington.

In September she will enter Columbia College of Columbia University.

Berkshire School's Alumni Prize Book for ability in English expression was awarded to **John K. Blount**, son of **Ellen K. Pearson** of Monterey and Roy A. Blount, Jr., of Mill River.

David McAllester was named Distinguished Visiting Professor at Simon's Rock for the winter semester. A professor of anthropology and music at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, McAllester did his doctoral work at Harvard University. He is one of the founders of the Society of Ethnomusicology and a specialist in native American music. His publications include the books *Enemyway Music* and *Peyote Music*, and he is the coauthor of *Navaho Blessingway Singer* and *Hogans: Navaho Houses and House Songs*. At Simon's Rock McAllester taught a mini-course on the anthropology of music, and he presented two Blodgett Evenings in February where he discussed native American music, dance, art, and oral literature as expressions of religion and philosophy.

Hans Kessler has climbed 45 of the 46 peaks over 2,000 feet in the Adirondack range and is now about to join an exclusive club of hikers who have mastered all of the range's 2,000-footers. His partner in this venture is his daughter, Elise Kessler, a Schenectady resident who manages the nursery of the obstetrics department at Schenectady's Bellevue Hospital.

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CALENDAR

Contra and Square Dances

Saturday, July 13—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, \$3.50; children, \$1.00 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Saturday, July 27—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have done it before. Joe Baker, calling; music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission: \$3.50. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Fire Company Steak Roast

Saturday, July 27—Food will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Afterward there will be dancing to music by the Shy Americans. Tickets are \$12.50 for the Steak Roast and the dancing. There will be a separate charge for those who wish to attend the dance without having been to the Steak Roast. For tickets contact any Monterey fireman.

Lake Garfield Association Meeting

Saturday, August 24—9:30 a.m. at the new dam. All are welcome.

Saturday, July 27—Monterey Library Book and Bake Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Library basement.

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STORY HOUR

There will be a story hour at the Monterey Library for children aged 2 to 7 on Tuesday morning at 11:00 starting July 16 and running through August 13. Children must be accompanied by a responsible person.

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION HEALTH PROMOTION CLINICS, JULY

The following is the schedule for the Health Promotion Clinics offered by the Southern Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association for July 1985. All clinics are free of charge to South County residents (donations are accepted). For more information call the VNA at 528-0130.

Stockbridge	July 3	Heaton Court
1:00-3:00		
	July 17	Plain School
Otis	July 2	Library
1:00-3:00		
Sheffield	July 9	Dewey Memorial Hall
1:00-3:00		
	July 23	Dewey Memorial Hall
Gt. Barrington	July 22	Senior Center
1:00-3:00		

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